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+PIKE PROFILE 490
+BY JIM ADAMS
+ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
WASHINGTON (AP) - HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OTIS G. PIKE SAYS HE BELIEVES THE BIGGEST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE MOMENT IS AMERICANS' DISTRUST OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

''I THINK PERHAPS THE MOST PERVASIVE DANGER AND CONSTANT DANGER TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AT THE PRESENT TIME IS A PERVASIVE FEELING AMONG THE POPULACE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT LIES TO THEM;'' THE NEW YORK DEMOCRAT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW. ''THAT'S WHY WE NEED MORE OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT; AND LESS SECRECY;'' HE DECLARED.

PIKE SAID THAT'S WHY HE HAS BEEN CONTENDING WITH PRESIDENT FORD; CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR WILLIAM E. COLBY AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS THE COMMITTEE'S RIGHT TO GET AND SOMETIMES DISCLOSE SECRETS.

PIKE DENIES BEING A GADFLY WHO LIKES A GOOD FIGHT BUT SAID; ''I NEVER WORRY ABOUT FIGHTING WITH ANYBODY IF I THINK THEY'RE WRONG AND I'M RIGHT.'' DURING HIS 15 YEARS IN CONGRESS HE HAS OFTEN BEEN IN SCRAPS WITH THE PENTAGON; SOMETIMES USING HIS WIT TO GET HIS WAY.

HE ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY SHOT DOWN FLIGHT PAY FOR NON-FLYING OFFICERS; FOR EXAMPLE; WITH A SPEECH IN WHICH; WITH ARMS OUTSPREAD; HE RIDICULED THE DIFFICULTY OF FLYING A MAHOGANY DESK IN THE PENTAGON.

HE WAS HEAD OF A SUBCOMMITTEE THAT INVESTIGATED WASTE IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND WAS THE FIRST CONGRESSMAN TO DISCLOSE THAT FORMER AIR FORCE GEN. JOHN J. LAVELLE HAD ORDERED AIR STRIKES INTO NORTH VIETNAM WHICH; AT THE TIME; VIOLATED U.S. POLICY.

BUT PIKE HAS ALSO AT TIMES SUPPORTED CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY POLICIES; INCLUDING THE VIETNAM WAR UNTIL ITS LAST YEARS.

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PIKE'S FATHER DIED WHEN THE FUTURE CONGRESSMAN WAS TWO; AND HIS MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS SIX. HE WAS RAISED BY AN AUNT AND TWO OLDER SISTERS. NOW 54; PIKE IS THE FATHER OF THREE GROWN CHILDREN.

PIKE WAS A MARINE CORPS DIVE-BOMBER AND FIGHTER PILOT IN WORLD WAR II. HE FLEW ABOUT 120 COMBAT MISSIONS; RECEIVED FIVE AIR MEDALS AND LEFT THE MARINE CORPS AS A CAPTAIN AFTER THE WAR.

HE RETURNED TO RIVERHEAD; LONG ISLAND; N.Y.; WHERE HE HAD BEEN BORN; TO PRACTICE LAW AFTER GETTING HIS LAW DEGREE AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL.

HE RAN FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN 1951 AND LOST BUT WON IN 1953. HE RAN FOR THE HOUSE IN 1958 AND LOST BUT WON IN 1960 ON THE NEXT TRY.

HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND BECAME ONE OF ITS DEFENSE SPENDING CRITICS. IT WAS ON THAT COMMITTEE THAT PIKE FIRST GAINED NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS CHAIRMAN OF A SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATING NORTH KOREA'S CAPTURE OF THE U.S. SPY SHIP PUEBLO.

HE SAID IN THAT CASE NORTH KOREAN WARNINGS OF DISCONTENT OVER SUCH SPY OPERATIONS WENT UNHEEDED AND; WHEN THE SHIP WAS SEIZED; THE U.S. OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE DID NOT GET THE WORD UNTIL THE SHIP WAS ALREADY BEING TOWED INTO A NORTH KOREAN HARBOR.

PIKE SAYS PEARL HARBOR; THE PUEBLO AFFAIR; THE 1973 MIDEAST WAR AND THE CYPRUS CRISIS LAST YEAR ALL INDICATE THAT AMERICA IS UNABLE TO PREDICT ATTACKS; A CONCLUSION DISPUTED BY COLBY.

PIKE SAID THE ATTACKS WERE PREDICTED IN ALL THESE CASES; BUT THE FORECASTS WERE EITHER IGNORED OR DID NOT GET TO TOP POLICY MAKERS.

IN WHAT MAY BECOME ONE OF THE COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSION; PIKE SAID: "THE WORD JUST DOESN'T GET THROUGH."

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